



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine, representing more than 64 organizations, stands proudly in support of the Popular University for Palestine Coalition and applauds UWM administration for facilitating peaceful negotiations.

Hundreds of diverse students from UW-Milwaukee, representing Muslim, Jewish, Palestinian, Christian, atheist, LGBTQ and more, set up a two-week peaceful encampment in front of Mitchell Hall to find community in their trauma and sorrow as they became witness to a genocide in Gaza and to call out their university's complicity in collaborations and investments with Israel. Many of the students were personally affected, having lost dozens of family members due to Israel's massacres.

During the entire two-week encampment, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and Hillel pressured the university to call in law enforcement and forcibly remove the peaceful protestors. They knew this meant brutalizing these young students. Stories of antisemitism became conflated as criticism of Israel's genocide was equaled with criticism of Judaism. This completely ignored the Jewish students, staff and faculty who stood in solidarity with the encampment as they held Shabbat services there and refuted the narrative of antisemitism.

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Hillel and ADL are organizations which serve as the Israeli government's PR machine in this country and specifically here in Milwaukee. Tactics designed to silence any criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians are employed at all levels of society. Their attacks on a peaceful community of students who have become our collective conscience on the horrific slaughter is shocking but not surprising. The narrative of these Zionists shows a lack of reasoning and human sanity.

Tens of thousands of Palestinian lives massacred, every university in Gaza bombed, and now tens of thousands being starved and dehydrated to death should be the rallying cry of humanity at this moment. But these Zionist organizations demonstrate the same attitudes of the settler-colonial state of Israel - a callous and inhuman disregard of the indigenous people of Palestine and now that of peaceful students who demand an end to US complicity in genocide.

We applaud the university for not employing violence against their own students. The agreement between the administration and the students amounted to ongoing dialogue, that is the minimum to be expected from an institution of higher learning. These students represent a new generation of peace activists in the spirit of Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. These brave students are finding the path towards peace is marred by oppressive racists who are more concerned with upholding the status quo of violence and hatred than of peace and human dignity.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine, representing 64 diverse organizations, respects and is in awe of the brave students who refuse to be silent as we witness this horrific time in history.

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